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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/529,442	04/13/2000	TIMO LAAKSO	003300-634	7079

7590

05/30/2002

BENTON S DUFFETT JR
BURNS DOANE SWECKER & MATHIS
PO BOX 1404
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404

EXAMINER

DEWITTY, ROBERT M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1616

DATE MAILED: 05/30/2002

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/529,442

Applicant(s)

LAAKSO ET AL.

Examiner

Robert M DeWitty

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2001.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 43 and 44 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-44 are pending in the instant application. Acknowledgement is made of Applicant's amendment 10/23/01.

Election/Restrictions

1. Newly submitted claims 43 and 44 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: the new claims are directed to a product-by-process.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 43 and 44 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

2. Claims 1-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tice et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,407,609), further in view of Ekman et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,822,535).

Tice is drawn to methods for microencapsulating an agent to form a

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microencapsulated product. In preparing the microspheres, a polymer is first dissolved in a solvent. The solvent can be selected from a variety of common organic solvents.

The active substance is then added to the solvent containing the polymer.

Ekman relates to the production of small spherical polymer particles. Ekman teaches that when using an organic solvent as a phase when producing droplets, organic solvents currently used in the art are not very desirable environmentally or health wise. Ekman teaches that polyethylene glycol is preferably used as a polymer in the continuous phase of the invention (col. 3, lines 40-44). Whereas water is removed during the process to form the particles, in use only a small amount of water need be removed in order to form the particles (col. 3, lines 45-51).

Motivation to utilize propylene glycol as the continuous phase in the invention of Tice would have arisen because, as taught by Ekman, polyethylene glycol is a preferred phase in comparison to standard organic solvents when making microparticles (see Tice).

Response to Arguments

3. Regarding the rejection made under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, based upon Applicant's amendment, the rejection is withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection made under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, based upon Applicant's amendment, the rejection is withdrawn.

Applicant asserts that Ekman does not remedy the deficiencies of Tice, and furthermore, the teachings of Ekman applied to Tice would not result in the claimed

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invention. The examiner acknowledges that Ekman's method of making the particles is based upon removal of water (distillation, osmosis, filtration), and Tice's method of making particles involves extraction of the solvent, however Ekman teaches that water is removed only minimally. Furthermore, Ekman is relied upon to teach the benefits of using a polymer such as polyethylene glycol in making the particles, namely decrease in harm to the environment, and to handlers of the aqueous solvent. Thus, the rejection is maintained.

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert M DeWitty whose telephone number is 703-308-2411. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:00pm.

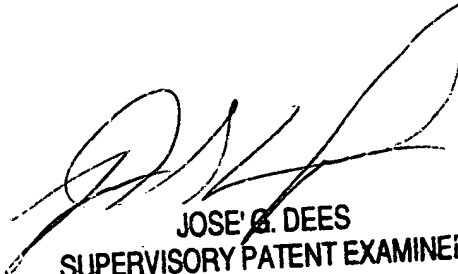
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jose Dees can be reached on 703-308-4527. The fax phone numbers for

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the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7924 for regular communications and 703-308-7924 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235.

RMD
May 24, 2002


JOSE B. DEES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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